

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 SSO-00 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01

INR-10 L-03 NSF-01 NSAE-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02

DOE-15 INT-05 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 DOEE-00

ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 OIC-02 AGRE-00 /150 W

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O 031409Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7203

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DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS IIA AND AFR/SFWA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJECT: ORGANIZING MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION

1. US DELEGATION HAS TRIED TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN VERY
UNCERTAIN STATE OF SUBJECT MEETING. BELIEVE IT CLEARLY
DESIRABLE, HOWEVER, TO RESERVE US POSITION ON BECOMING
PERMANENT MEMBER OF THIS CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) FOR FOLLOW-
IN REASONS:

A. FUNCTIONS, SCOPE OF WORK, AND ORGANIZATION HAVE NOT
BEEN AGREED UPON AND RANGE WIDELY DEPENDING UPON INTERESTS
OF DELEGATION. AT ONE EXTREME SWEDEN DESIRES TO KILL CG
OUTRIGHT. AT OTHER EXTREME INDIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE CG
AS SUPER-MOBILIZER OF NEW RESOURCES THAT UNEP COULD GRANT
TO VARIOUS ANTI-DESERTIFICATION PROJECTS THROUOUT WORLD.

B. MEETING HAS DISCUSSED DEMISE OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP
FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENTS (CGFPI) AND CLEAR
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STRENGTHS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (CGIAR). MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
OF SUDAN MADE ELOQUANT PLEA THAT EXPERIENCE WITH
THESE TWO CONSULTATIVE GROUPS SHOULD GUIDE THE ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF SUCH GROUP. CHAIRMAN TOLBA DOES NOT SEEM
TO FEEL THAT RESEARCH FOCUSED ON ANTI-DESERTIFICATION
SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF SUBJECT CG. INSTEAD

HE SEEMS OBSESSED WITH HIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MANDATE TO MOBILIZE AND MOST LIKELY CONTROL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION.

2. US DELEGATION INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO INFORM SUBJECT CG, IF ESTABLISHED, ON A CONTINUING BASIS ITS EXPERIENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO IN COMBATING DESERTIFICATION IN BORDER REGION, I.E., SOUTHWEST US. ALSO US WOULD BE WILLING TO PRESENT PERIODICALLY THE AID ANTI-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

3. GUIDANCE WOULD BE WELCOME ON EXTENT TO WHICH US SHOULD EXPRESS RELUCTANCE TO EVENTUALLY JOIN SUBJECT CONSULTATIVE GROUP WITH PRIMARY FOCUS, AS CONCEIVED BY CHAIRMAN TOLBA, FOR UNEP TO MOBILIZE AND COORDINATE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH TOLBA DESIRES DECISION BY US AS TO ITS MEMBERSHIP IN CG BY MAY 12, HE WAS INFORMED THAT SUCH A PROMPT DECISION BY USG MOST UNLIKELY. ISSUE NOW IS WHETHER CG SHOULD EVEN COME INTO EXISTENCE. GUIDANCE REQUESTED.

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